

REMARKS

Upon entry of this paper, claims 23 - 56 remain pending in this application. Claims 1-22 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 23 - 56 are newly added. Furthermore, amendments to Fig. 2 have been submitted herewith, and the specification has been amended to correct for recently discovered errors and to more clearly set forth subject matter pertaining to the present invention. It is believed that the foregoing amendments and additions add no new matter to the present application.

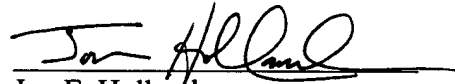
In particular, note that support for the amendments can be found at various locations in the instant application and/or in U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/199,868 (the “’868 application”), which is incorporated into the instant application by reference. See page 1, lines 6 and 7, of the instant application. For example, support for the amendment at page 9, line 28, can at least be found under the heading “Basic Screening Algorithm Example” in the ‘868 application. Further, support for the amendments at page 11, line 30, and page 12 line 3, can at least be found at page 11, lines 25-28, of the instant application. In addition, support for the text inserted at page 20, line 16, can at least be found under the headings “Info – Data Definitions (d),” “Info – Stock Valuation (a),” “Info – Stock Valuation (b),” and “Info – Stock Valuation (d)” of the ‘868 application. Support for the amendment at page 22, lines 23-28, can at least be found under the heading “Ranking of Sub-sets” in the ‘868 application and at page 8, lines 22-27 of the instant application. Also, support for the amendments at page 29, lines 13-15 can at least be found under the heading “Basic Screening Algorithm Example” in the ‘868 application and at page 9, line 24, through page 10, line 3, of the instant application.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the foregoing amendments, and favorable action in regard to the instant application is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding Applicants' response, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone Applicants' undersigned counsel.

Respectfully submitted ,

LANIER FORD SHAVER & PAYNE P.C.

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon E. Holland", written over a horizontal line.

Jon E. Holland

Reg. No. 41,077

Customer No. 021491
P.O. Box 2087
200 West Side Square, Suite 5000
Huntsville, Alabama 35804
(256) 535-1100

ANNOTATED VERSION OF MODIFIED SPECIFICATION
TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

The following is a marked up version of the amended paragraph that extends from page 9, line 24 through page 10, line 3, wherein underlining denotes additions. Note that there are no deletions to the amended paragraph.

One or more user preferences for one or more equity parameters of interest are then received which provide information relating to the weight given each equity parameter of interest. By way of example, a preference indicating that the user would like to be provided with a list of equities having low P/E, market only may be received. Based upon this information, a weighting function such as **[score = weight (market rank)]** where **[weight(market rank) = (10 - market rank)]** may be applied to the ranked equity parameters of interest. Such a weighting function will be applied to all equities in the pool of equities to assign each equity a score. These scores may then be sorted, preferably from high to low, and one or more equities having a score most representative of the received user preferences (low P/E, market only) will be selected. The one or more equities and their scores may then be provided to the user in satisfaction of his or her request.

The following is a marked up version of the amended lines 30 through 32 on page 22 and line 2 on page 12, wherein brackets denote deletions and underlining denotes additions.

$$\text{Weight}_{\text{P/E}} = 10 - (\text{P/E rank}) \quad \text{"good when } \underline{\text{low}}[\text{high}]\text{"} \quad \text{Eqn. 3}$$

and an appropriate weight function for ROE could be:

$$\text{Weight}_{\text{ROE}} = (\text{ROE rank}) \quad \text{"good when } \underline{\text{high}}[\text{low}]\text{"} \quad \text{Eqn. 4}$$

The following is a marked up version of the amended paragraph at page 22, lines 21-29, wherein brackets denote deletions and underlining denotes additions.

In the "Use stock data from" section **89**, the user may select to choose stock data from the current time period or from previous time periods, e.g., one month ago, three months ago, or six months ago. In the "Rank within" section **90** the user may choose to rank the equities based on the relative positions of the equities' parameters within the entire market, within the industry, or within both the entire market and the industry[and as a combination of both]. This ranking is performed by comparing values for each parameter (e.g., P/E, etc.) and then ranking each equity according to its parameter value from highest to lowest[. The ranking is done] 1) within an industry, 2) within the market as a whole, or[and] 3) within both the market and an industry[, which is a blend of the market rank and the industry rank]. In the "Screen within" section **92**, it is preferable to allow selections either within all industries, or within certain industries, such as the following:

The following is a marked up version of the amended paragraph on page 27, lines 11-15, wherein brackets denote deletions and underlining denotes additions.

In the "Use Stock data from[form]" section **122**, the present invention allows the user to use stock data from the current time period or from previous time periods, e.g., 1, 3, or 6 months ago. Furthermore, the "Rank within" section **124** allows the user to select whether the results of the screening will represent the "best" equities within the market as a whole (Market only), within their individual industry groups (Industry only), or both (Market and Industry).

The following is a marked up version of the amended paragraph at page 29, lines 13-18 wherein brackets denote deletions and underlining denotes additions.

In order to [rank]assign a score to a parameter in the preferred embodiment, either "Good when high" or "Good when low" must be selected. This tells the screening algorithm the user's personal investing preference for each equity parameter. Thus, in the preferred embodiment, a weighting function for a parameter may be [score = 10 - market rank] when "Good when low" is selected or may be [score = market rank] when "Good when high" is selected. For example, value investors typically seek out equities with low P/E, P/B, and P/S ratios, relative to other equities. As shown in **Fig. 13**, the default setting for P/E is "Good When Low" in order to see relatively low P/E equities. If a user's investing style involves finding high P/E equities, he should select "Good When High."

Fig. 2

